

REMARKS

Summary of the Office action

Claims 7, 9, 10, 83-87 and 89-92 are pending in the application.

Claims 7, 9, 10, 83-87 and 89-92 have been rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,635,054 to Fjield et al. ("Fjield") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,971,968 to Tu et al. ("Tu").

New claim 93 is added in this Amendment.

Applicants' Response to the Office action

Applicants have amended claim 7 to more closely reflect the structure disclosed in paragraphs [0133]-[0135] and FIG. 35 of the published application. Support for the amended claims is set forth in the foregoing portions of the published application.

In particular, claim 7 has been amended to recite "a catheter having an ultrasonic transducer including *a balloon including a first reflective interface and a second reflective interface, the second reflective interface spaced apart from and directed towards the first reflective interface so as to form a window between the first and second reflective surfaces.*" Applicants submit that no such structure is taught or disclosed in the prior art of record.

Fjield was incorporated by reference into the present application (see paragraph [0004]) and shares two common inventors as the present application. As described in paragraph [0004], Fjield describes an expansible structure used as a reflector for directing and focusing ultrasonic waves from an ultrasonic transducer into a region of tissue to be ablated. Ultrasonic energy emitted from a transducer passes radially outwardly from the transducer to the reflector, which redirects the ultrasonic energy and focuses it toward an ablation region encircling a central axis of the device. As noted in paragraph [0005] of the present application, further improvements would be desirable.

One such improvement is described in claim 7, as amended. Fjield does not teach or suggest "a catheter having an ultrasonic transducer including *a balloon including a first reflective interface and a second reflective interface, the second reflective interface spaced apart from and directed towards the first reflective interface so as to form a window between the first and second reflective surfaces.*"

This deficiency is not cured by Tu, alone or in combination with Fjield. Tu discloses a catheter having localized contrast media irrigation means for providing contrast media to the distal tip section. (Tu, abstract; March 31, 2009 Office action, page 3). Tu neither teaches nor suggests “a catheter having an ultrasonic transducer including a balloon including a first reflective interface and a second reflective interface, the second reflective interface spaced apart from and directed towards the first reflective interface so as to form a window between the first and second reflective surfaces.”

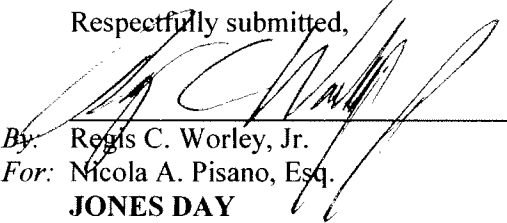
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are obviated in view of the amended claims and that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims patentably distinguish over the prior art, and requests the application be passed to issue. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, if an interview could help expedite any remaining items.

An extension of time for a period of two months, the fee for which will be paid via EFS-Web, is respectfully requested. Also, the fee for one new claim will be paid with this response. No other fees are believed due at this time. However, please charge any required fees, or credit any overpayments, to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

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Respectfully submitted,

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